

DORE AND BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 1.





DORE AND BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1951, which is furnished in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5, of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, and Circular 42/51 of the Ministry of Health.

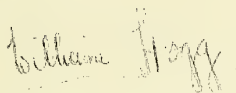
The health of the inhabitants of the District was good throughout the year, and no serious outbreak of infectious disease occurred. The death rate for the year was low and the birth rate was satisfactory.

I wish to acknowledge assistance given me, not only in the preparation of this Report but throughout the year, by my colleagues, Mr. F. Craze, Clerk to the Council; Mr. E.A.J. Reece, Financial Officer; and Mr. D. Francis, Sanitary Inspector.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the support which has been given me in the discharge of my duties throughout the year.

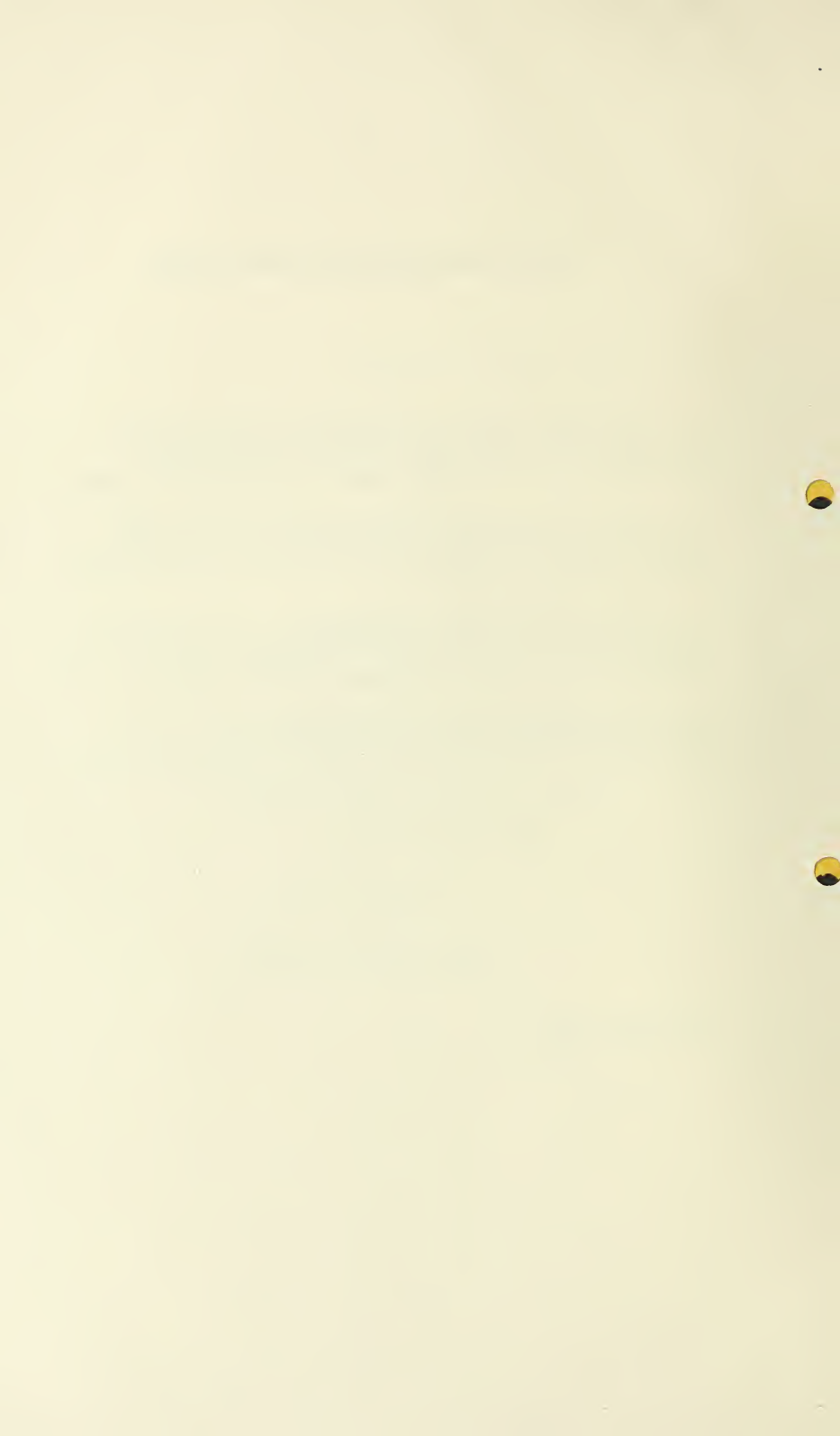
I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'William Hogg', is written over the printed name.

Medical Officer of Health.

26th August, 1952.



DORE AND BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
M.R.S.I.

CLERK TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Miss A.O. Gale.

Telephone:

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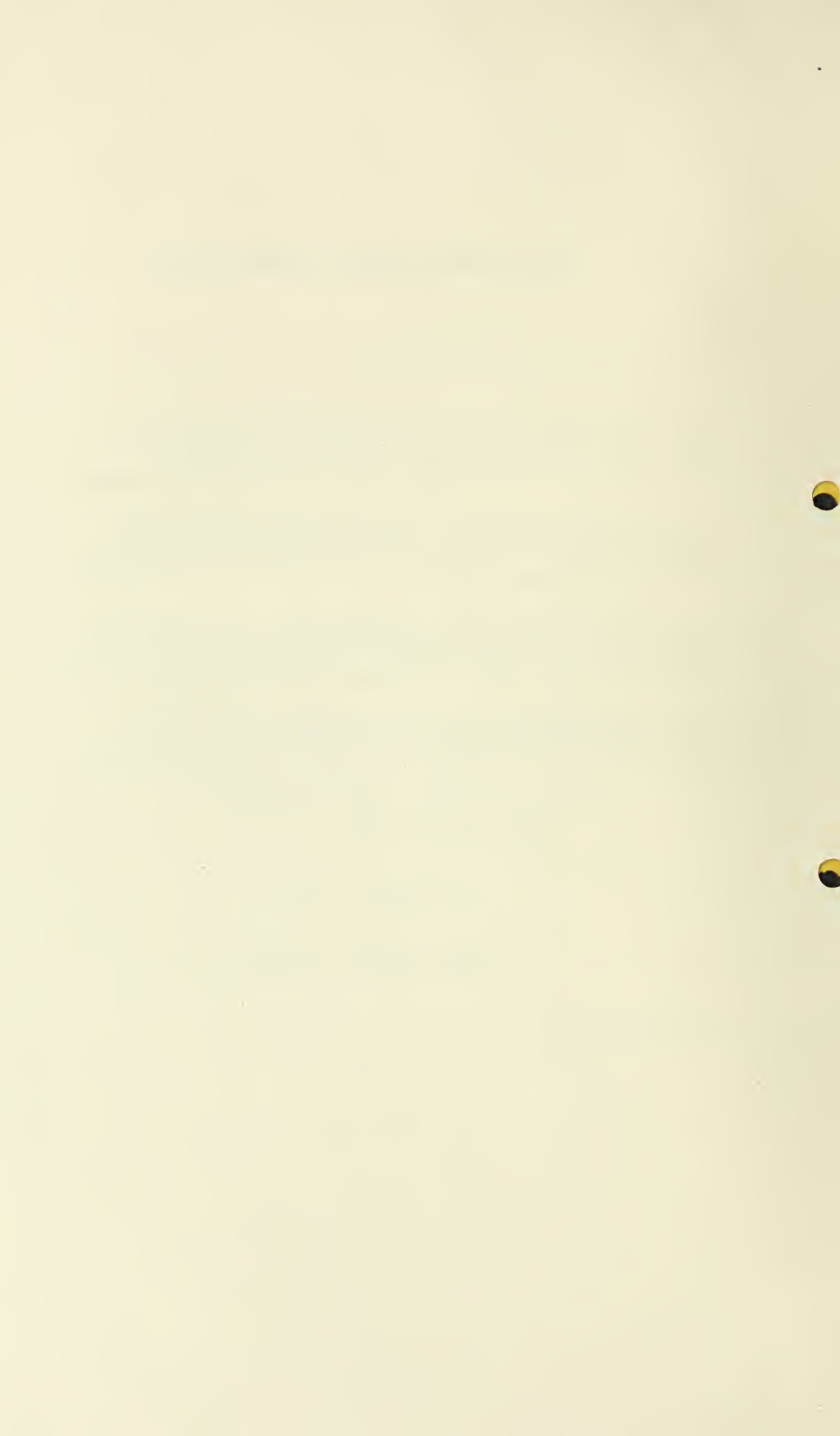
SANITARY INSPECTOR, SANITARY SURVEYOR AND HOUSING  
DESIGNATED OFFICER

Mr. David J. Francis, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Telephone:

Peterchurch 241

Urishay House,  
Peterchurch,  
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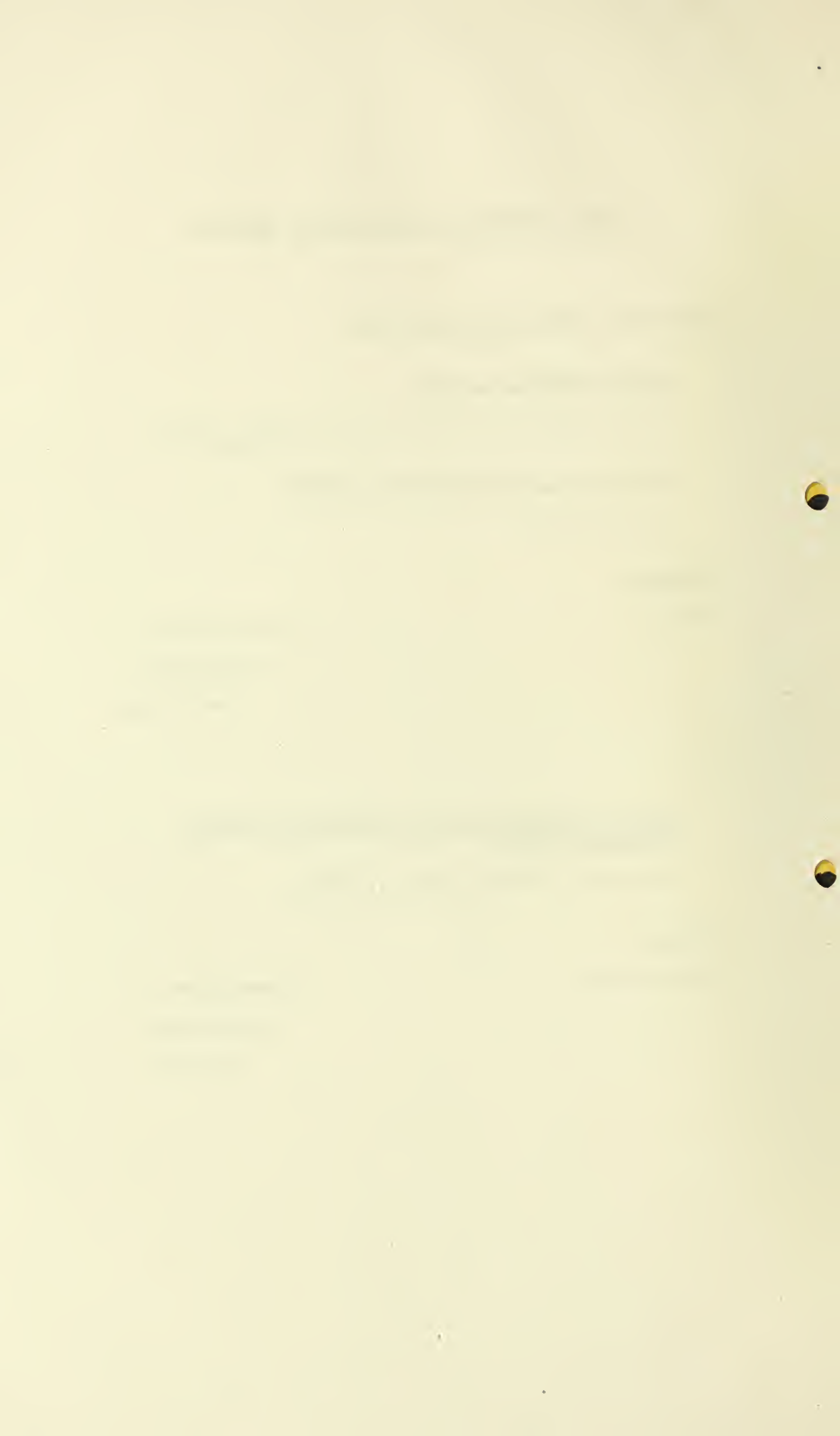
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SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The District is entirely agricultural in character. There is much fine scenery, especially in the west where the Black Mountains form an impressive boundary. The area appears to be less well known than other parts of the County for the influx of summer visitors is not large.

Area (in acres)	...	...	84,532
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.51) ..			2,457
Rateable value		...	£25,213
Product of a Penny Rate		...	£104. 13. 10.
Census Population.		...	8,761
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population.		...	8,644

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1000 estimated resident population.	...	18.4
Adjusted Live Birth rate per 1000 estimated resident population.	...	21.0
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total births (live and still).	...	18.5
Crude Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population.	...	11.1
Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population.	...	9.8
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	...	1.14
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	...	0.88

Deaths from Maternal Causes.

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total Births.</u>
Heading No.30. Pregnancy, childbirth abortion.	Nil	Nil

Death Rates of Infants under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1000 live births.	...	37.73
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births.	...	34.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.	...	83.3

### Population.

The Census population for the year is 8761, whilst the figure for the 1931 census is 7898.

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident mid-year population is 8644.

The population has shown some increase during the last few years, resulting from the use of the former R.A.F. Camp at Madley for housing needs. The average number of persons per occupied house is 3.59 and the estimated number of persons per acre is 0.10. The average number of occupied dwellings per acre is 0.029. The natural increase in the population, that is the excess of live births over deaths, is 63.

### Births.

The total number of live births registered during the year was 159 (83 male and 76 female), giving a birth rate of 18.4 per 1000 of the estimated resident population. This shows an increase upon the rate for the previous year when 155 births gave a rate of 17.8 per 1000 of the estimated population. The corrected birth rate, using the comparability factor of 1.14 is 21.0 per 1000 resident population. The number of illegitimate births was 12 (8 male and 4 female). This figure is the same as the figure for 1950. The live births which occurred out of wedlock form 7.5% of the total live births. The legitimate live birth rate is 17.0 per 1000 estimated population and the illegitimate live birth rate is 1.4 per 1000 estimated population.

### Stillbirths.

The number of stillbirths registered is 3 (1 male and 2 female), the same number as in 1950. This gives a stillbirth rate of 0.35 per 1000 resident population, which compares with the rate for the year for England and Wales of 0.36 per 1000 population. If the number of stillbirths occurring is considered in relation to the total number of births it is found that the stillbirth rate is 18.5 per 1000 total births.

### Deaths.

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the area is 96, after the deduction of deaths of non-residents and addition of deaths of residents occurring outside the area. This number is formed of 59 male deaths and 37 female deaths, and on the basis of the estimated population, the crude death rate is 11.1 per 1000 population. This rate is higher than that for the previous year (9.2), but in 1950 only 80 deaths occurred. When this rate is corrected, the adjusted death rate for the Rural District is 9.8 per 1000 population. The death rate for England and Wales for the year under review is 12.5 per 1000 population. The ratio male/female deaths is 1.6

A table showing the principal causes of death according to sex and mortality is given on the following page.

Table of Causes of Death according to Sex  
and Mortality Rates.

No.	Cause.	Male.	Fe- male.	Per- sons.	Corrected D.R. per 1000 Popln.
1	Tuberculosis, respirat- ory.	2	1	3	0.30
2.	Tuberculosis, other.	-	1	1	0.10
5.	Whooping Cough.	1	-	1	0.10
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	2	1	3	0.30
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus.	1	-	1	0.10
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	6	5	11	1.12
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	5	4	9	0.92
18.	Coronary disease.	8	2	10	1.02
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	2	-	2	0.20
20.	Other heart disease.	8	5	13	1.32
21.	Other circulatory disease.	-	3	3	0.30
22.	Influenza.	1	1	2	0.20
23.	Pneumonia.	3	3	6	0.61
24.	Bronchitis.	4	2	6	0.61
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	1	2	0.20
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	4	0	4	0.40
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	8	6	14	1.43
34.	All other accidents.	2	2	4	0.40
35.	Suicide.	1	-	1	0.20
All Causes.		59	37	96	9.83

The most frequent cause of death, as usual, is heart disease (headings Nos. 18, 19 and 20), accounting for 25 deaths (18 male and 7 female) and giving an adjusted death rate from this cause of 2.5 per 1000 population. Heart disease accounted for 25% of all the deaths in the Rural District. In 1950 33% of deaths were due to diseases of the heart.

#### Cancer Deaths.

All forms of cancer (headings Nos. 10, 11 and 14) caused 15 deaths. Cancer is the second most frequent cause of death, with an adjusted death rate from this cause of 1.5 per 1000 population. In the previous year 12 deaths were attributed to cancer of all sites.

#### Infantile Deaths.

The number of infants under one year of age who died is 6 (4 male and 2 female).

The infant mortality rate for the Rural District is, therefore, 37.7 per 1000 live births and the figure for the year for England and Wales is 29.6 per 1000 live births. In 1950 only two infantile deaths occurred.

Neo-natal Deaths.

Six infants died before attaining the age of four weeks.

Deaths due to Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea.

No deaths are attributed to gastritis, enteritis or diarrhoea.

Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Whooping Cough caused one death and pneumonia caused 6 deaths. In the previous year one death was due to measles and one to pneumonia.

Tuberculosis.

Four deaths were caused by tuberculosis. The adjusted local death rate from tuberculosis is 0.4 per 1000 population, which is to be compared with the death rate for England and Wales for the year of 0.31 per 1000 population. In 1950 only one death was caused by tuberculosis.

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

Facilities for laboratory investigations are provided by the Public Health Laboratory at the County Hospital, Hereford.

The following table shows the number of examinations carried out by the Laboratory at the request of the Department:

Milk for organisms.	...	1
Swabs.	...	4
Sputa.	...	6
Faeces.	...	19
Milk (Methylene Blue).	...	79
Water (Bacteriological).	...	49
Urine.	...	1

In addition one sample of water was submitted to an analyst for examination by chemical methods.

Hospitals.

The needs of the population are met by the hospitals in the City of Hereford. Accommodation for cases of infectious disease is available at the Stretton Sugwas Hospital and at the County Hospital, Hereford.

Ambulances.

The ambulances in the City of Hereford are used to meet the requirements of the inhabitants of the District. Transport of cases of infectious disease is provided by the ambulance at the Stretton Sugwas Hospital.

Nat ional Assistance Act 1948, Section 50.

One burial was carried out by the Council under this section during the year, and the cost of burial was ultimately refunded by the family of the deceased person.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47.

Four investigations under this section were made. In all cases, after careful consideration, I had to advise the Council that the conditions necessary before action could be taken were not present.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology.

The whole of the area is formed of Old Red Sandstone of the Devonian System, here represented by Upper and Lower Old Red Sandstones and Marls and Downtonian beds in the eastern part.

Water.

As the area is a large Rural District, the water supplies are provided mainly by small separate sources. Many dwellings depend upon private shallow wells. In addition, there are a number of small private piped schemes and piped supplies provided by the Rural District Council in the parishes of Longtown, Clifford and Dorstone. The Council continued the management of the water scheme installed at the former R.A.F. establishment at Madley, which gives a piped supply of potable water in Kingstone and Madley, and also supplies parts of the Hereford Rural District. This system uses water from the River Wye which is chemically treated and chlorinated. The pumping station lies within the boundary of the Hereford Rural District. It provides water of potable quality for the use of over 1000 persons who are living in the former R.A.F. buildings, and other dwellings and premises in the vicinity. It is proposed that the Hereford Rural District Council shall acquire these water works and continue to supply the parishes of Madley and Kingstone with water.

The piped schemes in the parishes of Clifford, Dorstone and Longtown utilise springs arising upon high ground, and feed the mains system by gravitation. No purification plant is necessary for any of these small schemes, and four samples of water from each scheme, examined during the year showed the water to be of good potable quality.



The following table gives the number of dwellings supplied from public water mains:-

Parish

Clifford.	...	92
Dorstone.	...	41
Longtown.	...	63
Madley.	...	354

The water of the Clifford scheme is somewhat peaty, but none of the waters used for domestic supply within the area appear to have any appreciable effect upon metals, and watermains are usually of iron. There are three standpipes in use in the Clifford scheme

During the year, shortage of water was experienced in the parishes of Abbeydore, Kilpeck, Vowchurch and Walterstone.

In addition to the piped schemes provided by the Local Authority, there are a number of other small piped schemes privately owned. A list of the more important was given in the Annual Report for the year 1938. No extensions of public water mains were constructed during the year.

Generally speaking, the area is inadequately supplied with water, and shortage of water in parts of the area does occur during dry summer months.

There are numerous private wells which serve as supplies for one or two dwellings, not without some success as regards the quantity of water available. The number of wells cleaned out was six.

The collecting boxes of the Clifford scheme were cleaned and repaired during the year and the fences around the protective areas of all the Council's schemes were put in good order.

Owing to the very large number of water supplies in use throughout the Rural District, it is very difficult to exercise control of the quality of water consumed. All the piped supplies provided by the Local Authority give water of good potable quality. The small piped schemes in the hands of private owners are, generally speaking, of reasonable potable quality. The quality of the water yielded by the numerous individual wells and springs is variable.

The former R.A.F. supply at Madley is the only water supply within the area to which purification treatment is given. No samples were taken from the river water, as samples taken at various points during the past have shown the Wye water to be classified as a clean or fairly clean river, according to the standard fixed by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal. However, 9 samples of treated water were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were of good potable standard.

Eight new agricultural water schemes were completed during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

In the parishes of Kingstone and Madley a system of sewers constructed during the War in connection with the R.A.F. establishment remained unchanged. The Council continued the management of the sewage disposal works receiving effluent from the sewers. The works are of considerable size and contain settlement tanks, rotary biological filters and sludge tanks. The flow of sewage at present being dealt with is well within the capacity of the works.

The number of new drains constructed in connection with dwelling houses was 43. The number of existing drains repaired or re-constructed was 12. The number of drain tests carried out by the Sanitary Inspector was 51. A septic tank was constructed in connection with new Council houses at Longtown.

#### Rivers and Streams.

The Rural District contains and is bounded by a number of rivers. The river Wye in the north forms part of the boundary of the Area from Hay to Bredwardine. The western portion of the Rural District is traversed by the Monnow, the Dore, the Escley Brook and Dulas Brook. These run in a roughly south east to south west direction. These rivers are clean rural rivers, and are unsuitable for navigation.

#### Closet Accommodation.

The principal type of closet in use within the Area is the pail closet, but the number of water closets steadily increases each year. The number of pail closets and privies still in use is probably greater than the number of water closets, but the difference is not great. Efforts to secure conversions continued throughout the year. Ten privies were converted to pail closets and a further 10 privies were converted to water closets, and 27 pail closets were converted to water closets. There remains ample scope for further conversions for many years, but owing to the few piped schemes the opportunity of conversion is limited. In addition to conversions, 26 new water closets were constructed during the year.

#### Public Cleansing.

The Council provided a system of refuse collection in the former R.A.F. Camp in the parishes of Kingstone and Madley. This included the provision of dustbins, and the scheme has been very beneficial to the inhabitants. The Council does not carry out the cleansing of cesspools and privies.

Some difficulty with regard to the indiscriminate disposal of domestic refuse in parishes not enjoying a system of refuse collection arises from time to time.

In Cusop parish a regular system of domestic refuse collection is provided in conjunction with the Hay-on-Wye Urban District Council.

#### Shops and Offices.

No formal action was necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936, but 26 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

#### Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public on payment within the Area.

Camping Sites.

The District contains much wonderful scenery but it does not appear to be so attractive to campers as some other areas, and camping constitutes no significant public health problem at the present time.

One site was used for camping purposes during 1951. The maximum number of campers present within the area on any one day is estimated at 26 persons. No licences were issued by the Council with respect to camping sites under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

One dwelling house was found to be infested with bed bugs and was disinfested. When such infestations have been discovered it has been the practice of the Council to call upon the Sanitary Inspector to spray the premises with the insecticide known as "Zaldicide", or other similar preparations. Whilst this method may not be quite so effective as the use of hydrogen cyanide, it is safe to use.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

I am indebted to Mr. D.J. Francis, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following tabular statement, furnished under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Inspections.

Accumulations.	...	2
Ashbins and Ashpits.	...	26
Bakehouses.	...	10
Camping Sites.	...	1
Caravans.	...	6
Dairies.	...	260
Drainage.	...	82
Drain Tests.	...	51
Filthy and Verminous Premises....	...	7
Filthy and Verminous Persons. ...	...	13
Factories (without mechanical power).	...	13
Factories (with mechanical power).	...	15
Food Handling Byelaws.	...	13
Fruit and Hop Pickers' Quarters.	...	21
Housing (Consolidated Regulations 1925).	...	209
Housing (Other)	...	131
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens....	...	4
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)..	...	5
Infectious Disease.	...	56
Public Conveniences.	...	16
Diseases of Animals Acts (Anthrax Order 1938).	...	1
Rats and Mice.	...	188
Schools.	...	12
Shops.	...	26
Unsound Food.	...	18
Water Supply.	...	52



Notices Issued.

Informal.	...	38
Statutory re housing.	...	2
Statutory under other Acts.	.	1

Summary of Defects Remedied.

Ashbins provided.	...	125
Accumulations removed.	...	2
Ditches cleared.	...	1
Drains and Gullies cleared...		42
Drains repaired.	...	18
Drains reconstructed.	...	6
New drains provided.	...	37
Defective floors repaired....		6
Defective roofs repaired.	...	16
Defective eaves and gutters repaired.	...	38
Defective brickwork repaired.		12
Defective coppers remedied...		2
Disinfections after Infectious Disease.	...	56
Defective windows repaired...		18
Defective chimneys repaired..		21
Dampness of Walls and floors remedied.	...	46
Closets repaired.	...	6
Dairies reconstructed.	...	4
Dairies improved.	...	8
Filthy and Verminous Premises cleansed.	...	7
Filthy and Verminous Persons cleansed.	...	13
New Gullies provided.	...	12
Gully Covers provided.	...	12
Inspection chambers repaired.		15
Old drains sealed.	...	20
Paving repaired.	...	1
Privies converted to Pail Closets.	...	10
Pail Closets converted to Water Closets.	...	10
Privies converted to Water Closets.	...	27
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired.	...	26
New Sinks provided.	...	18
Soil pipes repaired.	...	23
Sanitary fittings provided...		18
Urinals repaired.	...	3
Wells cleansed or repaired...		6
Miscellaneous Defects remedied.		404

Factories.

There are 22 factories without mechanical power and 13 with mechanical power registered with the Council. The number of inspections made was 25 and two defects - unsuitable sanitary conveniences and insufficient sanitary accommodation - were brought to the notice of the Department and remedied during the year.

A new drainage system was constructed at a registered factory.

Factory Form 572 (Revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1951, for the Rural District of Dore and Bredwardine, in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspect-ions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	22	25	1	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	13	10	-	-
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	-	-	-	-
Total	35	35	1	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instit'd.
	Found.	Remedied.	to H.M. Inspect-or.	By H.M. Inspect-or.	
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient.	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuited or defective.	1	1	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	1	-

Outworkers.

There are no outworkers registered with the Local Authority.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Towards the end of the year, the Council appointed a part-time Rodent Officer.

A summary of the work carried out is given in tabular form on the following page.

## (a) Infestations.

	Total.	Notified by Occupier.	Otherwise discovered.	Rats		Mice.
				Major	Minor.	
Local Authority's Properties.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dwelling Houses.	44	-	44	12	-	-
Business Premises.	3	-	3	3	-	-
Agricult- ural Properties.	141	-	141	-	-	-
Total.	188	-	188	15	-	-

## (b) Measures of Control.

	Property inspect- ed.	No. of inspect- ions.	Informal Notice served.	Notices served under Sect. 4.	Treatment carried out.
L.A. Properties.	-	-	-	-	-
Dwelling Houses.	44	44	12	2	108
Business Premises.	3	3	-	-	-
Agricult- ural Properties.	141	141	-	-	-
Total	188	188	12	2	108

SECTION D - HOUSING

The Council's building programme for the provision of new dwellings continued to make slow progress. Six new dwellings situated in Longtown parish were occupied during the year and six Council houses at Bredwardine were under construction, but incomplete at the end of the year. This slow progress arises from a number of causes.

Private persons made some small contribution to the housing accommodation of the area by completing one dwelling at Maescod, whilst a further dwelling house was under construction at Shernmore, but incomplete at the end of the year.

Madley Camp - Temporary Housing Site.

The old buildings in this former R.A.F. establishment continued to be occupied throughout the year by homeless families, and at the end of the year 201 dwellings, accommodating some 800 persons, remained. Further dilapidations continued in these buildings and some families were allowed to move into less dilapidated buildings. The buildings vacated, being beyond further use as habitations, were then dismantled. A number of families were accommodated by another Local Authority. The Council continued to press on with proposals to provide permanent housing for the occupants of temporary houses.

The management of the estate continued in the hands of Mr. Peers, who handled the many problems which arose with tact and efficiency.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	...	209
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above purpose.	...	241
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1a above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.	...	130
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above purposes.	...	130
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	1
4.		Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	37

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	...	31
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

1.		Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. ..		2
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices		
		(i) By Owners	...	2
		(ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners.	...	Nil

2. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
  - (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. ... 1
  - (b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.
    - (i) By Owners. ... 1
    - (ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners. ... Nil
  
3. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
  - (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. ... Nil
  - (b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. ... Nil
  
4. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
  - (a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. ... Nil
  - (b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. ... Nil

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

- (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. ... 26
- (b) Number of families dwelling therein. ... 30
- (c) Number of persons dwelling therein. ... 74
- (d) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year. ... Nil
- (e) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. ... 9
- (f) Number of persons concerned in (e) above. ... 38



Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1949.

Section 2.	The number of demolition orders quashed as a result of the erection of works rendering dwellings fit for habitation.	...	1
Section 4.	(a) The number of new dwellings provided by construction, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority.	...	Nil
	(b) The number of new dwellings provided by conversion of existing buildings, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority.	...	Nil
Section 15.	(a) The number of dwellings provided by the Local Authority by the conversion of houses or other buildings.	...	Nil
	(b) The number of dwellings improved by the Local Authority.	...	72
Section 20.	(a) Number of grants made by the Local Authority for the provision of dwellings by the conversion of buildings.	...	Nil
	(b) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for improvement of dwellings.	...	Nil

At the beginning of the year there were 32 dwellings known to be overcrowded, and during the year 3 new cases came to the notice of the Department. It was possible to relieve 9 cases, so that the number of dwellings known to be overcrowded at the end of the year was 26. It is impossible to keep informed of all the changes of occupancy which occur in the District, and it may be that this figure somewhat under-estimates the overcrowding position.

The District contains a significant number of dwellings which fall short of modern housing standards, but little progress can be made in bringing these up to a reasonable standard of fitness at the present time. The primary housing need of the area remains the erection of new dwellings. The maintenance of houses in a reasonable state of repair remains a difficult matter in these days.

Rural Housing Survey.

The following table gives a summary of the position with respect to dwellings included in this survey:

Category 1.	(in all respects satisfactory)	...	314
"	2 (houses needing minor repairs)	...	380
"	3 (houses requiring structural		
"	4) alterations and/or major		
	repairs).	...	474
"	5 (houses scheduled for demolition)	...	76
			1244

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk.

At the beginning of the year there were two distributors of milk registered with the Council under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1949, and during the year two distributors were added to the register.

There are no plants for the pasteurisation of milk situated within the District, and no supplementary licences for the sale of pasteurised milk were issued by the Council. There was no evidence that any acute infectious disease was caused by the consumption of milk sold within the area. No pasteurised or heat treated milk appears to be sold.

The number of samples of milk sent to the Public Health Laboratory for methylene blue test was 79, and 12 of these samples failed to comply with the test.

Ice Cream.

The sale of this food appears very limited, and five registrations for the sale and storage of ice cream comprises the register of the Local Authority. The number of inspections made of these premises was five.

Water Cress.

The sale of water cress appears to be insignificant as it grows naturally in the area. No action was required in connection with sales of this food.

Shell Fish.

The sale of occasional jars or tins of preserved shell fish appear to embrace the sale of shell fish within the District. No action was necessary with regard to this food.

Meat.

There are no slaughterhouses now in use in the District, as all meat is supplied from the central Abattoir, Hereford. The inspection of meat is limited to that exposed for sale in butchers' shops.

Food Poisoning.

Two notifications of food poisoning were received during the year. The first case was notified with respect to a person who had been admitted to hospital for investigation for some ill defined symptoms. The patient had been in hospital for some time before the diagnosis was made, but it was considered that the original symptoms were probably due to infection by Salmonella Typhi-murium. The source of infection was not discovered.

The second case arose in a students' camp, and one case of Salmonella Dublin was diagnosed and notified in the third quarter of the year. Some vague digestive symptoms were experienced by a number of the campers but only in the notified case was it considered necessary to consult a doctor. This occurrence was interesting and  
/a careful

investigation was made. The only significant fact that emerged from the investigation was that a female student who had for a time prepared and cooked food had suffered from mild diarrhoea. The company came from various parts of Europe. Although the usual clinical pathological specimens were sent to the Laboratory, nothing abnormal was found.

#### Meat Inspection.

##### Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	N o t   K n o w n				
Number inspected.					15
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned .					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.					10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.					
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcases condemned.					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.					10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.					33%

#### Unsound Food.

The following table shows the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption, and voluntarily surrendered:-

<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Food.</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness.</u>
10 lbs.	Bacon.	Bone Taint.
12 tins	Herrings.	Blown Tins.
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Liver	Fluke
28 tins	Plums.	Blown Tins.
18 lbs.	Cheese.	Rancidity.
24 lbs.	Pig Offal	Disease.
8 tins	Baked Beans.	Blown Tins.



Byelaws as to Handling, etc. of Food.

The Council adopted these Byelaws, which came into force in February 1951. At the present time, experience is insufficient to judge of their efficiency. All food traders within the area were supplied with a copy of these Byelaws.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of confirmed cases of infectious disease notified during the year was 130, which is less than the corresponding figure for the previous year (199).

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease in each Quarter.				
Disease.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.
Erysipelas.	-	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	7	4	-	-
Whooping Cough.	11	4	11	35
Pneumonia.	10	7	4	1
Dysentery.	1	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection.	3	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	1	-
Measles.	14	9	5	2
All Diseases.	46	25	21	38

Whooping Cough.

It will be seen that the most prevalent disease was whooping cough, which gave rise to 61 notifications compared with 10 notifications in 1950. The incidence of the disease remained endemic during the first three quarters, until the final quarter when the incidence began to increase.

Unfortunately one death was caused by this disease, giving a corrected death rate of 0.1 per 1000 population. The incidence rate is 7.6 notifications per 1000 estimated population.

Measles.

The incidence of measles was very low, only 30 notifications being received. This is not entirely unexpected since 1950 was a year of significant incidence (168 cases). The incidence rate is 3.5 notifications per 1000 estimated population.

Pneumonia.

The incidence of pneumonia was higher than usual with a total of 22 notifications for the year, of which 10 occurred in the first quarter of the year. Thereafter the incidence fell progressively in each of the remaining quarters, with a single notification in the last quarter of the year. In the previous three years, notifications of pneumonia have remained steady at nine in each year.

Six deaths were attributed to pneumonia, giving a corrected death rate of 0.61 per 1000 population, and the incidence rate is 2.5 per 1000 population.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases of scarlet fever notified was 11, the heaviest incidence being in the first quarter when 7 notifications were received. In the previous year the number of cases notified was 8. There were no deaths.

Dysentery.

One case of dysentery (Sonne typé) was notified in the first quarter of the year.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

No cases of acute poliomyelitis occurred.

Analysis of total notified cases according to Age.

Disease.	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	25+	35+	65+	Age N.K.
Scarlet Fever.	-	3	3	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	5	18	17	19	-	1	1	-	-	-
Measles.	1	5	7	10	2	1	3	1	-	-
Pneumonia.	2	-	-	1	3	-	1	7	7	1
Dysentery.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Meningococcal Infection.	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	8	26	29	36	6	2	6	9	7	1

Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1950 there were 64 cases of tuberculosis on the Register (49 pulmonary and 15 non-pulmonary). During the year 14 cases were added to the register (13 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary), and of these 7 were new cases (6 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary). During the year 9 cases were removed from the Register (8 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary), and on the 31st December 1951, 69 cases remained on the register (54 pulmonary and 15 non-pulmonary). There were 4 deaths from tuberculosis, giving a corrected death rate of 0.40 per 1000 population.

New Cases and Mortality during Year 1951.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15+	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
35+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
55+	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	3	1	-	2	1	-	1

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